

Dr. Chapman's text is admirable and the whole conception of the work is another illustration of his ability to feel the pulse, as it were, of the bird loving public and provide what they need. The several line cuts which are scattered through the text might well have been omitted as they have not come out very satisfactorily on the rough surfaced paper, that of the Red-shouldered Hawk intended to illustrate the barred tail showing this appendage solid black.

The scientific nomenclature wisely follows that of the A. O. U. 'Check-List' and does not, like certain recent publications—even some issued by the Biological Survey, attempt to be up to date by using names not yet considered by the A. O. U. Committee and which the popular reader cannot find in the books with which he is familiar. If we do not follow a standard nomenclature in works intended for the general public we had better omit scientific names entirely.

In his English names Dr. Chapman also follows the 'Check-List' with two notable exceptions. Water-Thrush appears with the prefix "Northern" and Crossbill with that of "American." The abbreviated names have never met with favor and are ambiguous as there is another Water-Thrush and two other Crossbills. While we heartily endorse "Northern Water-Thrush" we prefer "Red Crossbill" which has been suggested by several writers, and trust that the Committee may adopt these changes in the next edition of the 'Check-List.'

We heartily recommend Dr. Chapman's little book to those desiring to name the birds they see, as probably the best pocket guide that has yet appeared.—W. S.

Horsfall on the Habits of the Sage Grouse.¹—In 'The Auk' for 1900, Mr. Frank Bond has an article and an original drawing illustrating the nuptial performance of the Sage Cock. He corrects Dr. Newberry's statement that the bird drags its wings Turkey-like and describes in detail a process of bending over and pushing the distended breast sacks over the ground, thus producing the wearing away of the feathers on these parts, something that was not previously explained.

Those who attended the A. O. U. meeting in New York in November, 1919, and saw Mr. W. L. Finley's motion pictures of these birds in action were surprised to see that Mr. Bond's account is apparently as much in need of correction as was Dr. Newberry's and that the bird's breast is held high and never touches the ground at all, the edges of the wings being rubbed over it when the sacks are distended. Mr. Horsfall who accompanied Mr. Finley now describes the activities of the mating birds and presents several sketches and a color plate to illustrate the successive stages of the performance. His account of the wearing away of the breast feathers is however by no means as clear and explicit as might be desired.—W. S.

¹ Zoologica. Scientific Publication of the N. Y. Zool. Soc.